BE WATER COOL BE WATER SMART
WATER SAVING TIPS FOR RESIDENTIAL USE

LAUNDRY

When doing laundry, always wash full loads.

- Conventional washers built before 2011 typically use about 40 gallons per load. Resource efficient washer may use as little as 15 gallons per load
- Adjust the water level in the washer to the amount needed for the load. Some of the new efficient washers will do this automatically.

When it is time to replace the clothes washer, choose a high-efficiency washer with a low water factor.

- The smaller the water factor, the more efficient the clothes washer. Look for the lowest water factor available to achieve the highest water savings.

DISHWASHING

If washing dishes by hand, fill the sink with water rather than continually running the tap.
Install an efficient dishwasher.

- Technological advances in dishwashers make it possible to use less water to achieve the same goal. Selecting a new dishwasher that uses less water per cycle will reduce household water use.
    - *Dishwashers use less water than handwashing, particularly if you limit pre-rinsing.*

Only wash full loads of dishes in the dishwasher.
Avoid using running water to thaw frozen foods.

- Instead, defrost in the refrigerator overnight.

FAUCETS

Find and fix any leaky faucets.

- A Faucet leaking 60 drops per minute will waste 192 gallons per month. That is equal to 2,304 gallons per year.

Install efficient faucets and /or faucet aerators.

- The U.S. EPA WaterSense program labels efficient faucets and aerators that use a maximum of 1.5 gallons per minute.
- Look for the Water Sense label when selecting new faucets or aerators.

Turn off the faucet.

- When lathering hands, shaving or brushing teeth.

LANDSCAPING

If an irrigation system is used, make sure it is properly set up and maintained.

- Irrigate hydro zones based upon the plants' water needs
- Install a weather-based SMART irrigation controller. It is essential that SMART controllers are properly programmed and maintained.
- Install and maintain a rain sensor, either wireless or wired, on the irrigation controller if it does not have one built-in.
- Regularly inspect the sprinkler heads to make sure they are not damaged or malfunctioning.
- Adjust sprinklers so they are not spraying water on paved surfaces such as the sidewalk or driveway.

Landscape with water-wise landscaping principles.

- Use native plants or plants that require little water to thrive in your region.
- Plant turf grass only in areas where people will use it actively for recreation.
- Organize your landscape into hydro-zones. Hydro-zones are areas of landscape with plant and vegetation that have similar water requirements. This prevents over-watering some plants and under-watering others.
- If watering with a hose, make sure it has a shut-off nozzle.
- Water in the morning to prevent water loss due to evaporation. Avoid watering when it is windy.
- Use a rain barrel to collect water for use in the landscape.
- Add a graywater system to collect water from your washing machine or shower and bath, and use it in the landscape.

SHOWERS

If it takes a long time for the hot water to reach the shower, use it as an opportunity to collect water for other uses, such as watering houseplants.

Replace showerheads that have a flow rate greater than 2.5 gallon per minute. (the current national energy policy act standard)

- If the showerhead is not labeled, the flow rate can be checked by catching the water in a 1-gallon bucket. If it takes less than 2 seconds to fill up, the showerhead flow rate is more than 2.5 gallons per minute. The U.S EPA WaterSense program labels efficient showerheads that use a maximum 2.0 gallons per minute.

Take shorter showers.

- Reducing a 10-minute shower to 5 minutes will save 12.5 gallons of water if the showerhead has a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute (even more if the showerhead has a higher flow rate).

TOILETS

Replace toilets installed before 1994 with High-Efficiency Toilets (HETS)

- Replacing an older toilet that uses 3.50 gallons per flush (gpf) with a HET that uses 1.28 gpf will save 2.22 gpf. The EPA WaterSense program labels efficient toilets that use a maximum 1.28 gpf.
- If the toilet is flushed an average of six times each day it will save 13 gallons per day or 4,745 gallons per year. Some older toilets may use as much as 7 gallons per flush.

Check toilets to verify they are working properly.

- Make sure the water level is not too high, the fill valve is working properly, and the flapper is not leaking. A running toilet can waste hundreds of gallons of water per day.

OTHER WATER SAVING TIPS

Check water bills for any instances of high water use, as this may be an indication of a leak.

- Leaking faucets, leaking toilets, and leaking pipes all have something in common, they waste a lot of water! Your water bill will often show abnormal water consumption if there is a leak.

Composting food wastes saves water by reducing the water needed to run a garbage disposal.

Pool owners can use a cover to reduce water loss through evaporation. A pool cover can also save energy and reduce the need for chemicals.

Sweep outdoor surfaces with a broom instead of using a hose.

Wash vehicles at a carwash that recycles its water. If washing at home, make sure the hose has a shutoff valve.